

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

PSYCHOLOGIST - LICENSED - CHAPTER 980

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under ER 2.04, Wis. Adm. Code, for making classification decisions relative to present and future professional Psychologist positions located within the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) that provide forensic evaluations under the Chapter 980 Sexually Violent Person Commitments (SVP) law. Employees in positions allocated to this classification are licensed as Psychologists by the Department of Regulation and Licensing, per s. 455.04, Wis. Stats., and provide responsible forensic assessment and evaluation work for DHS and DOC. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions that currently exist, or those that result from changing program emphasis in the future. Rather, it is designed to serve as a framework for classification decision-making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the “best fit” of the duties within the existing classification structure. The “best fit” is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

This classification encompasses professional Psychologist – Licensed - Chapter 980 positions located within DHS and DOC that provide forensic evaluations of sexually violent persons (SVP). Positions provide assessment of recidivism risk and risk management considerations, write evaluation reports for the court and give expert witness testimony in court concerning the same.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are the following types of positions:

1. Positions that meet the statutory definitions of supervisory and management as defined in ss. 111.81 (19) and (13), Wis. Stats., as interpreted and administered by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
2. Positions that do not require a Wisconsin Psychologist license issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing under s. 455.04, Wis. Stats.

3. Positions not located at the Department(s) of Health Services or Corrections.
4. Positions that do not for a majority of time conduct psychological assessments as described by Chapter 980 Wis. Stats, write reports for the court, and provide expert court testimony in regard to sexual offenders referred for assessment under Chapter 980.
5. Positions located at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center (SRSTC) in the Department of Health Services that, for a majority of time, provide clinical treatment to individuals committed under Chapter 980, Wis. Stats., and are more appropriately classified as Treatment Provider – Chapter 980.
6. Positions that perform very responsible and specialized consultative work in the professional practice of psychology and are responsible for developing and administering clinical treatment programs to meet the needs of staff and clients within a region of the Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections a majority of time (more than 50%) and are classified as Chief Regional Psychologist.
7. All other positions that are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications

D. Entrance Into This Classification

Employees enter this classification by competition. All employees entering this classification must possess a Wisconsin psychologist license.

II. DEFINITIONS

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Positions in this classification are responsible for conducting assessments as described by Chapter 980, Wis. Stats., Wisconsin's Sexually Violent Persons Commitment law. These positions perform duties within the realm of professional practice of psychology for DOC and DHS. These duties include clinical interviews and evaluations, psychological services related to diagnosis, sexual offender/patient recidivism risk and risk management assessment, consultation, and research related to these issues. Positions perform duties which require licensure as a Psychologist by the Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board, including writing assessment reports and providing expert testimony in court concerning offender/patient's mental condition and/or treatment needs; keeping current with the ever changing and expanding research; and participating in such research as requested. The Psychologist, as an expert in the evaluation of sex offenders, provides training and case consultation to other SRSTC or DOC staff, staff from other agencies and Attorneys, such as District Attorneys. General supervision is provided by a Supervisory or Management level Wisconsin licensed Psychologist.

In addition, positions may provide clinical supervision of professional psychology interns consistent with the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) internship standards. Certain positions may require a specific doctorate in Psychology.

Representative Positions

Department of Corrections:

Chapter 980 Clinical Evaluation Unit, Bureau of Health Services, Division of Adult Institutions:

As a Wisconsin licensed Psychologist, the Chapter 980 Evaluation Psychologist participates as a member of a team responsible for conducting Special Purpose Evaluations which is a part of the Department of Corrections (DOC) Chapter 980, Wis. Stats., Sexually Violent Person Commitment law, case review and evaluation process. Responsibilities include clinical interviews and evaluations, risk assessment and report writing for the court, providing expert testimony in court and any other related functions in preparation for a probable cause hearing and commitment trial, and participating in clinical research as directed, keeping current with new research. The Psychologist, as an expert in the evaluation and risk assessment of sex offenders, provides training and case consultation to other DOC staff, staff from other agencies and Attorneys, such as District Attorneys. General supervision is provided by a Wisconsin licensed Psychologist Supervisor in the Bureau of Health Services.

Department of Health Services:

Evaluation Unit, Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center: As a Wisconsin licensed Psychologist the evaluation unit psychologist participates as a member of a team responsible for conducting assessments as described by Chapter 980, Wis Stats., Sexually Violent Person Commitment law, within Section 980.04, 980.07(1), 980.07(3), 980.08 and 980.09. These responsibilities include clinical interviews and evaluations, risk assessments, risk management assessments, completing annual re-examinations of committed individuals, writing reports, providing expert testimony in court, and any other related functions in preparation for a commitment hearing or in response to a petition. The Psychologist must keep current with the ever changing and expanding research and participate in such research as requested. The Psychologist, as an expert in the evaluation of sex offenders, provides training and case consultation to other SRSTC staff, staff from other agencies and Attorneys, such as District Attorneys. General supervision is provided by a Supervisory or Management level Wisconsin licensed Psychologist.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for this position will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and worker activities performed and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.

NOTE: All positions in this classification MUST possess a Wisconsin psychologist license, per s. 455.04, Wis. Stats. Positions in this classification perform functions that, under Wisconsin Statutes, can only be carried out by individuals licensed as Psychologists by the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This classification was created effective January 17, 2010, and announced in Bulletin OSER-0261-CLR/SC as a result of the agreement between the WSEU, DHS and OSER to create a pilot program to address recruitment and retention issues of Chapter 980 Evaluators and Treatment Providers and to describe positions located in the Department of Health Services and the Department of Corrections that

conduct psychological assessments, write evaluation reports, and provide expert court testimony in regard to sexual offenders referred for assessment under Chapter 980, Wis. Stats.

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